Surah Ash-Shams

Spiritual Rewards, Healing & Life Lessons

Overview

- **Explore** — Explore the Makkan background of the Surah
- **Analyse** — Analyse the eleven oaths
- **Examine** — Examine purification and corruption of the soul
- **Learn** — Learn from the people of Thamud
- **Apply** — Apply lessons to our daily lives

Background of Surah Ash-Shams

Revealed in Makkah
15 verses
Focus on faith, accountability and character
Emphasises reflection upon Allah's creation

Central Themes

- Divine signs in creation
- Human free will and responsibility
- Purification of the soul (tazkiyah)
- Consequences of rejecting guidance

Verses 1 to 8

By the sun and its brightness,
and the moon as it follows it,
and the day as it unveils it,
and the night as it conceals it!
And by heaven and (the One) Who built it,
and the earth and (the One) Who spread it!
And by the soul and (the One) Who fashioned it,
then with (the knowledge of) right and wrong inspired it!

The Eleven Consecutive Oaths

Why so many Oaths?

- Sun
- Moon
- Day
- Night
- Sky
- Its Builder
- Earth
- Its Spread
- Soul
- Its Fashioning
- Knowledge of right and wrong

• Why So Many Oaths?

- **Cosmic oaths** (sun, moon, day, night) capture attention and emphasise Allah's greatness.
- **Familiar natural signs** resonated with the Arabian audience, who depended on them in daily desert life.
- **Poetic and rhythmic style** reflected the eloquent culture of Makkan society.
- **Powerful language and sound** made the Surah's message memorable and impactful.

Verses 7 to 10

And by the soul and (the One) Who fashioned it,

then with (the knowledge of) right and wrong inspired it!

Successful indeed is the one who purifies their soul,

and doomed is the one who corrupts it!

The Human Soul

Allah created the human soul with the ability to do both good and evil. Success comes to those who purify their souls through righteousness, while failure and ruin come to those who let their souls fall into sin and evil.

Reflect:

- What are some examples of how we can purify our souls?
- What are some examples of the consequences of ignoring the divine signs?

Purification of the Soul

Examples:
- Prayer
- Honesty
- Gratitude
- Kindness
- Seeking forgiveness

'Successful is the one who purifies it.'

Consequences of Ignoring Divine Signs

Examples:
- Loss of moral direction
- Hardened hearts
- Personal and societal harm
- Accountability before Allah

Questions

1. Why do people reject truth even when evidence is clear?

2. How does arrogance prevent personal growth?

3. How do daily habits affect the soul?

Verses 11 to 15

Thamud rejected (the truth) out of arrogance,

when the most wicked of them was roused (to kill the she-camel).

But the messenger of Allah warned them, “(Do not disturb) Allah’s camel and her (turn to) drink!”

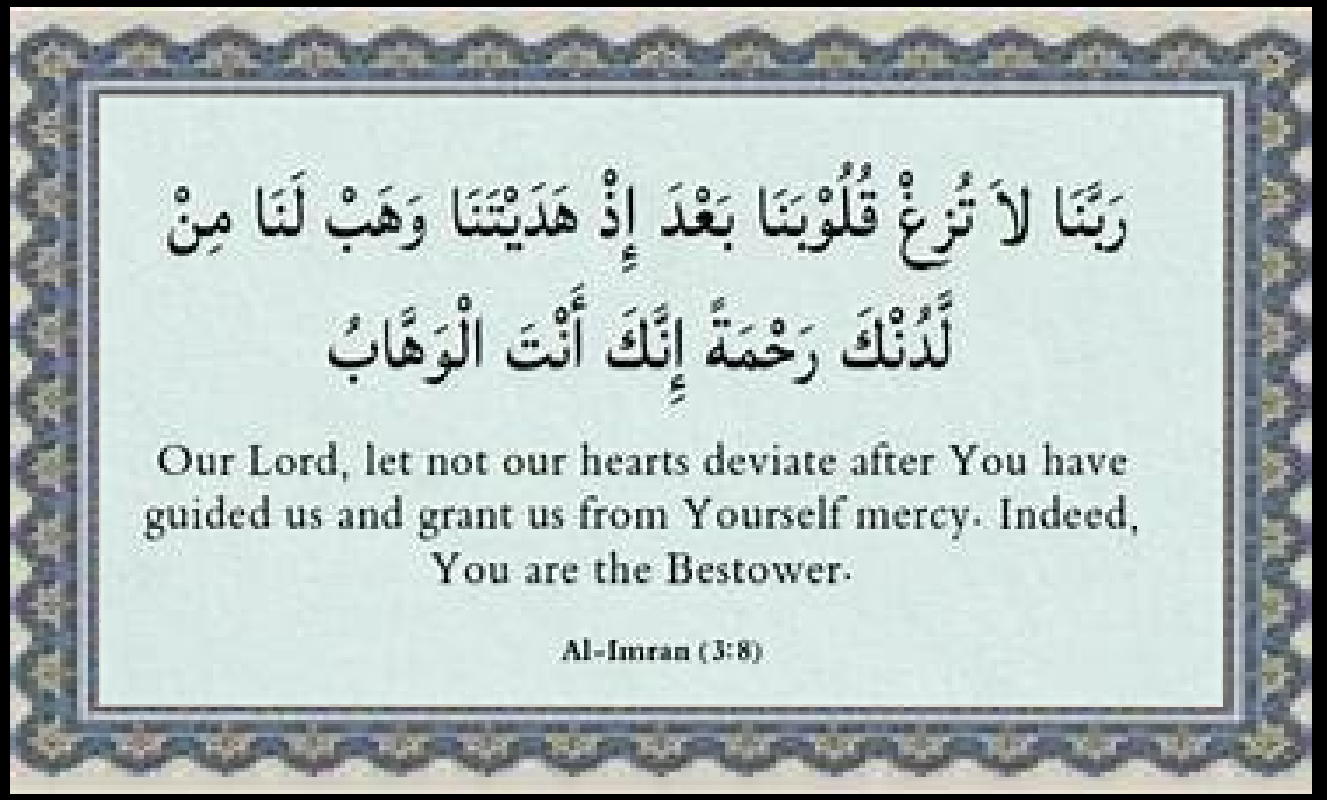
Still they defied him and slaughtered her.

So their Lord crushed them for their crime, levelling all to the ground.

He has no fear of consequences.

Applying Surah Ash-Shams in your life

- **Being honest in your dealings**
- **Respecting others**
- **Choosing good friends**
- **Managing emotions**
- **Reflecting before making decisions**


رَبَّنَا لاَ تُزِغْ قُلُوْبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ
لَّدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ
Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.
Al-Imran (3:8)